





## SPEECH OF THE QUEEN

Her Majesty Practically Announces the Approaching Settlement OF THE VENEZUELAN DISPUTE

Has Good Words for Kruger—Increase of Expenditures Necessary—Other Matters Discussed.

London, February 11.—The regular session of parliament was opened today. The speaker, the Right Hon. William Court Gully, presided over the house of commons. At 2 o'clock the royal commission entered the house of lords, and at that hour the house of commons was summoned. The members of the house of commons, headed by the speaker, at once proceeded to the house of lords, and after they had assembled at the bar of the house the speech from the throne was read by the lord high chancellor, Lord Halsbury, after which the members of the house of commons returned to their chamber.

## The Queen's Speech.

Following is the text of the queen's speech: "My Lords and Gentlemen—I continue to receive from other powers assurances of friendly sentiments. The agreement has been concluded between the government and France, the principal object of which is to secure the establishment of the independence of Siam."

"The commissioners for the delimitation of the frontier which separates my Indian empire and Afghanistan from Russia have agreed upon a line, which has been accepted by myself and the emperor of Russia."

"The government of the United States of America has expressed a wish to cooperate in the termination of the differences which have arisen for many years between my government and the republic of Venezuela upon the question of the boundary between that country and the colony of British Guiana. I have expressed my sympathy with the desire to come to an equitable arrangement, and trust that further negotiations will lead to a satisfactory result."

"The sultan of Turkey has sanctioned the principal reforms in the government of the Armenian provinces for which, jointly with the emperor of Russia and the president of the French republic, I have felt it to be my duty to press. I deeply regret the fanatical outbreaks on the part of a section of the Turkish population which have resulted in series of massacres, and which have caused the deepest indignation in this country."

## Allusion to the Transvaal.

"A sudden incursion into the South African republic by an armed force from the territory under the control of the British South African Company, resulted in a deplorable collision with the Burghers' forces. My ministers, at the earliest possible moment, intervened to stop the fighting, and to prevent the further extension of the hostilities, and to warn all my subjects in South Africa against taking part in it."

"The origin and circumstances of these proceedings will be made the subject of a searching inquiry."

"The president of the South African republic, acting in this matter with moderation and wisdom, has agreed to place the prisoners in the hands of the British government, and I have undertaken to bring to trial the leaders of the expedition."

"The conduct of the president of the South African republic upon this occasion, and the assurances which he has voluntarily given, lead me to believe that he recognizes the importance of redressing the legitimate grievances of which complaint has been made by the majority of the persons inhabiting the Transvaal."

"The conditions of peace in the Transvaal, and the violation by the king, at Kumasi, of the provisions of the treaty of 1874, as regarded the suppression of the practice of human sacrifices, the freedom of trade and the maintenance of communications, have for some time been the subject of my attention. All endeavors to induce the king to observe his engagements proved fruitless. It became necessary to send an armed expedition to Kumasi to force the conditions of the treaty. While the expedition was in the field, the king, at Kumasi, has been achieved without bloodshed. I have decided to place the king under the protection of the British government, and to place the loss from the severities of the climate of some valuable lives, including that of the king, under the protection of the British government."

"On the northwestern frontier of India the measures which were taken in 1895 to secure effective control of Chitral have been successful."

"Gentlemen of the house of commons, I have directed the estimates for service for the year to be laid before you. They have been prepared with the utmost regard to economy, but the exigencies of the times require an increase of expenditure."

"My lords and gentlemen, the extension and improvement of the naval defenses of the empire, at home and abroad, are matters to which your efforts can be directed and will doubtless occupy your most earnest attention."

"I regret to say that the condition of agriculture is disastrous beyond recent experience. Measures will be taken before you with the object of mitigating the distress which has been caused by the failure of the crops. I have directed that the regulation of light railways for the rural districts. You will also be asked to consider the employment of the Irish bill, an Irish land bill and a measure for the formation of an Irish board of agriculture."

## Cheers for Chamberlain.

The house of commons, after listening to the queen's speech in the house of lords, returned to the house of commons at 4 o'clock, and at that hour of assembling except on Wednesdays, when the house meets at noon. The Rt. Hon. Joseph Chamberlain, secretary of state for the colonies, entered the house shortly after it had been called to order and was vociferously cheered.

## An Address in Reply.

Mr. George J. Goschen, Jr., son of Right Hon. George Goschen, first lord of the admiralty and member of the East Greenwich division of the House of Commons, in reply to the speech from the throne and the motion was seconded by Sir Herbert Maxwell, member of the Admiralty division of the House of Commons.

## The Good Work Mrs. Cutten and Others Have Been Doing.

The regular meeting of the Atlanta Free Kindergarten Association at the Young Men's Christian Association yesterday was an interesting occasion.

Mrs. Cutten, superintendent of the association, gave an interesting talk, as did several others.

The only school yet opened is the one which was started last summer. This school is now in the room recently rented for the purpose of a kindergarten, near Marietta. The rooms have been nicely furnished and the school is open to visitors from 9 to 12 o'clock daily.

Mrs. Cutten's report of the work was most interesting in every particular and caused much surprise by the good work accomplished.

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## MEN IN STRIPES.

Several Convicts Tell Their Story Before the Governor.

AND ONE DESCRIBES DUCKING

One Tells of How Whipping Is Done at the Mines.

SOME SENSATIONAL EVIDENCE IS GIVEN

Another Busy Day Spent Yesterday by the Governor's Court Investigating Charges Against the Lessees.

Sensational developments were sprung in the proceedings before Governor Atkinson during the morning session of the court of inquiry held in the senate chamber yesterday morning.

Evidence was introduced to show that gambling was carried on at several of the camps and that games for money were played between the convicts and the guards.

Two prisoners arrayed in stripes were introduced by the state yesterday morning and gave their testimony as to the treatment of convicts at the Dade coal mines. For more than two hours questions were asked at the witnesses, who stood the assault with remarkable composure. Members of the senate and house committees were also introduced and testified at some length concerning their visits to the several camps.

During the session of the court yesterday every seat on the floor was occupied and crowded galleries looked down upon the

impressive scene presented in the senate chamber. Governor Atkinson occupied the secretary's desk and by his side sat Attorney General Terrell.

Directly in front and just to the left of the main aisle sat the lessee—Captain J. W. English, by himself; Captain W. B. Lowe, by the side of his attorney, Judge John L. Hopkins. Judge Hamilton McWhorter, representing Colonel J. M. Smith, sat next. Just behind sat Mr. Julius L. Brown, represented by Burton Smith, T. L. Bishop and Gray &amp; Ellis.

Colonel N. J. Hammond and Judge W. C. Adams, representing the state, occupied seats to the left of the main aisle. The morning session began promptly at 9 o'clock and terminated shortly after 1 o'clock. A session of three hours was held in the afternoon.

The court of inquiry will meet again this morning at 9 o'clock.

A Moral Convict. The most important witness introduced for the state during the progress of the investigation yesterday was a convict by the name of B. P. Smith, who was clad in the coarse garb of a criminal, but his features indicated more than ordinary intelligence. A vigorous constitution was proclaimed in his broad shoulders, deep chest and ruddy complexion. His conversation was easy and self-possessed and evidently that of a man who had enjoyed liberal educational advantages.

"Where are you from?" asked Colonel Hammond, addressing the convict, after he had taken his seat on the platform.

"My home is in Chatham county," replied the convict, "but I am now at Dade coal mines. I have been there something over two years."

In reply to a question put to him by Colonel Hammond the prisoner stated that he had been in the penitentiary for embezzlement. He had done some collecting for a company in Savannah and appropriated money which did not belong to him. He expected to pay it back, however, with legal interest, as soon as he was released from prison. He was a member of the Methodist church and notwithstanding his misfortune he had tried to live a consistent life.

Description of a Ducking. Having introduced the prisoner to the court by reviewing enough of his past life to explain the cause of his stripes, Colonel Hammond proceeded.

"Have you ever seen a prisoner punished by the process known as ducking?"

"Yes, but only once. It was in the day time and I was supposed to be asleep. My work was altogether at night. I was about a hundred yards off, as well as I remember. I watched the process, as I had never seen a prisoner ducked before that time. I had frequently heard of that sort of punishment, as it was common at the camp. I saw Captain Cox bending over a negro convict while two other negroes held him down. He poured water into his face from a large powder can which he held in his hands. As soon as the water gave out another supply was brought up by a negro convict, who carried away the empty can. That was all I saw of the ducking. I was supposed to be asleep."

One of the Convicts Dead. "Did you ever hear of a prisoner dying at the camps as the result of this treatment?" asked Colonel Hammond.

"I did."

"What was the man's name?"

"Sam Bivings."

"How long did he live after this punishment was inflicted?"

"About two weeks, I think. It may possibly have been a month. He was never the same man afterwards."

Colonel Hammond asked the witness about whipping at the camps. He had seen only one man whipped. Captain Ed Cox inflicted the punishment. The prisoner's name was like Wood. The punishment was rather mild. Captain Cox only gave him seven licks. Sometimes the prisoner was tied down and sometimes he was not tied down. Whenever a prisoner offered resistance or was known to be a desperate man he was tied and then flogged.

"How about the sick? Is a sick man required to work?"

"That depends. If he looks well and strong he is pretty apt to work or take a whipping. I was sick myself one morning. Captain Cox told me if I stayed in the building he would whip me. I was too sick to work, so I stayed. Didn't whip me, either. I knew of a man who claimed to be sick

and told Captain Cox that he would have to leave off. He did so and was punished. A short while afterwards he died. The man's name was Joe Dorsey. If I remember correctly, he died the next day."

Food Improperly Cooked. "Tell us something about the food," asked Colonel Hammond. "What quality of food do they give you?"

"Pretty rough, but just the sort I expected to find. The meat is fairly well cooked and the quantity given is sufficient. The bread is just ordinary cornbread."

The witness said he had beef, cornbread and water for breakfast. At dinner the meal was just the same with the addition of vegetables. Supper usually consisted of soup and bread. Each prisoner received his meal in a half-gallon bucket. It was not served in the best style, but so far as the prisoners knew the buckets were clean.

As soon as the prisoners finished eating the buckets were thrown aside. Afterwards a man would come along and gather up these buckets. The buckets were known among the prisoners as "Jims."

Refused to Sign Papers. The witness next told of a difficulty between himself and Captain Cox, growing out of the former's refusal to sign certain papers. The witness was not satisfied with the management of things at the camp and thought a change of some kind should be made. After discussing the matter with one of the freedmen about the camps it was decided that Smith should write an article setting

forth the evils complained of. The other man agreed to sign this paper and send it to the newspapers for publication. The witness, after thinking about the matter, decided not to do this. He wrote the article, however, and submitted it to the governor. The food was cooked in four ovens. There was also a range, but this was not in use at the time of his visit.

Senator Brown was the next witness introduced. He was a member of the senate committee appointed to visit the prisons. He made visits to Cole City, Durham and Alexander. The convicts were badly treated at all the camps. At Alexander the cooking was worse than it was at any other place. The meal was coarse and mixed with bran. The meat was badly cooked and the quantity was insufficient. The building was exposed in many places and the lives of the prisoners endangered.

Judge Hopkins, the attorney for the lessee, was the next witness introduced. He was a member of the senate committee appointed to visit the prisons. He made visits to Cole City, Durham and Alexander. The convicts were badly treated at all the camps. At Alexander the cooking was worse than it was at any other place. The meal was coarse and mixed with bran. The meat was badly cooked and the quantity was insufficient. The building was exposed in many places and the lives of the prisoners endangered.

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7, but since he entered the penitentiary he had worn them as big as they were made. He was not particular about the number, and the bigger the better, since the leather was tough. Only a few of the convicts wore socks. They were gambled off as soon as they were procured out. One man had not worn a pair in six years. He always gave his socks to the witnesses.

Horse Stealer on the Stand. The next witness was a convict by the name of Murkland. He was sent to the camps for horse stealing. He had been in the penitentiary since October, 1894. His home was in Floyd county. He testified substantially as the other convicts. Prisoners were ducked until the blood ran from the ears and mouth. Gambling was common at the camps and he had known guards to gamble with the convicts.

On the cross-examination the witness stated that now and then a prisoner, after the expiration of his sentence, would come back and work for wages. These wages ranged from \$10 to \$20 a month.

Senators on the Stand. Senator Brown was the next witness introduced. He was a member of the senate committee appointed to visit the prisons. He made visits to Cole City, Durham and Alexander. The convicts were badly treated at all the camps. At Alexander the cooking was worse than it was at any other place. The meal was coarse and mixed with bran. The meat was badly cooked and the quantity was insufficient. The building was exposed in many places and the lives of the prisoners endangered.

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that was done on Sunday at the camps and also as to the treatment of prisoners. Colonel Hammond called attention to the fact that he and Colonel Adams had called on Mr. Julius L. Brown for the whipping books kept at Cole City and other camps. A legal requisition had been sent to Mr. Brown calling for the books which were records of the whippings kept, and in which the number and extent of the whippings were shown. Requisition had also been made for certain letters; and for information showing what other forms of punishment were in use at the camps. They were important for the use of the state in further conduct of its case, and it was necessary to have the books for the inspection of himself and Colonel Adams during the recess of court.

Mr. Brown replied to this by saying that he had received and acknowledged the requisition for the papers and books, and it was his purpose to comply.

"Some of those books only arrived at my office this afternoon," said he; "they came in by express just as I was leaving for the trial. They are there now. One of them we have here, but we wish to present them all to the court tomorrow. In the meantime we desire to go over them. It is our purpose to comply with the demand of the state. We have nothing on earth to conceal, and will turn the books over tomorrow."

Colonel Hammond argued rather firmly that the book in court should be turned over at once; the attorneys wanted them.

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## SUES FOR \$100,000

Maggie Henderson Sues the Lessees for the Heinous Crime of a Convict.

HER STORY OF THE ATTACK

Several Suits Were Filed Yesterday Against the Railroads for Injuries Received Last Fall.

Maggie Henderson, through her attorneys, has filed a suit against the Dade Coal Company and in the amount of \$100,000.

The charges in the petition are of a most sensational nature and the places the blame of her cruel and inhuman treatment at the hands of a convict at the coal of the coal company and the lessees.

On the second day of last October Maggie Henderson was assaulted by a convict named Neal Smith, as she was passing the place where a squad of convicts were working, she says. Her outrage and subsequent sufferings are vividly told in the petition, which was filed yesterday. She states that she was passing a point along the railroad track on her way to the house of a friend. As she passed a certain point she noticed a gang of convicts at work digging out the coal from the hillside.

Continuing her journey, she passed on and turned from the railroad and started through a dense piece of woods, which was far distant from any house. When she reached a secluded spot, she was attacked by the convict, Neal Smith, who had seen her when she passed the railroad crossing and had followed her into the woods. As she glanced behind her, Smith caught her in his arms and threw her heavily to the ground. In the fight she made against the attack, her finger was bitten off, her clothing torn into shreds and her hands and several bones in her body were broken.

The convict caught her by the feet and dragged her down the steep mountain side, where he accomplished his fiendish purpose. Smith left her for dead, and returned to his work. She was unconscious and did not regain her consciousness for the space of two weeks. She now claims that she has been left in a fearful condition, that her mind has been affected, and her nervous condition is pitiable. She has suffered, and will continue to suffer, much bodily pain and will never recover from the severe shock.

The suit is brought against the Dade Coal Company, as it was responsible, so it is claimed by the plaintiff, for the acts and deeds of its convicts. Maggie Henderson states that when she was attacked by the convict, she noticed that none of them were shackled or chained in any manner and that Smith left the gang and followed her with the permission and knowledge of the guard who was with the gang.

She alleges that the convict was first leased by penitentiary camp No. 3, and was transferred to camp No. 1, which is illegal and contrary to the laws of the state governing the convict lease system. After the transfer was made, the company which was conducting the business of the convict lease system, and also was a public disgrace to him to be put off of a car.

His petition shows that he purchased a ticket from Stockbridge, November 21, with a return coupon. He came to Atlanta and the coupon was detached. When he presented the ticket to the conductor, as he returned to Stockbridge, the ticket was refused and he was informed by the conductor that he would have to pay full fare to his home. Morris states that he did not have the money and so he informed the conductor, and asked him that he would not put him off in the dark and be a stranger in the city.

Notwithstanding his pleadings, he says he was put off in the dark and was compelled to pay a negro to bring him back to Atlanta. He says he missed a very important business engagement at McDonough which would have been worth money to him had he been able to have filled the engagement.

He jumped from the platform. Smith was brought against the Western and Atlantic railroad by Paul Reese, who alleges that he was so badly frightened last fall while on a passenger car of the road that he jumped from the train while it was in motion, and was severely injured. He sets forth in his petition that he boarded a train leaving Atlanta and was a passenger on it. That while the train was running out of the city, the car in which he was sitting ran against another car, which was standing too close to the tracks. The accident happened before it happened, Reese says that he would be killed when the two cars collided. His injuries, he shows, are permanent and he is sixty odd years old.

The engagement postponed. Mr. Hopkinson Smith Compelled To Postpone His Week's Engagements. A telegram received yesterday announced that Mr. F. Hopkinson Smith was detained in New York by unavoidable circumstances and could not begin his southern tour this week. In consequence all of his engagements for this week were postponed.

The Modern Way. Commends itself to the well informed, to do pleasantly and effectively what was formerly done in the crudest manner and disagreeably as well. To cleanse the system and break up colds, headaches and fevers without unpleasant after effects, use the delightful liquid laxative remedy, Syrup of Figs. Manufactured by California Fig Syrup Company.

THEY MAKE ONE FEEL as though life was worth the











